

HARRIS & HODGE.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 723.]

MAY 18, 1860.

Mr. HELMICK, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads,  
made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of Harris & Hodge, of the State of Missouri, asking compensation for carrying the United States mail from Huntsville to Brunswick, make the following report :*

It appears from the petition and papers that some time prior to the 20th of December, 1858, the citizens of Huntsville, Brunswick, and vicinity, in the State of Missouri, petitioned Congress to establish a daily mail or post route between said points; but that by reason of the failure of the last Congress to pass the post office appropriation and post route bill, the route was not, and is not now, established by law. The wants and demands of the people for further mail facilities in that section of the State of Missouri, caused by the rapid increase of population, induced the petitioners to open up a route from Huntsville to Brunswick, a distance of about sixty miles, and commenced running a daily line of coaches between said points, with the understanding with the postmasters that they should have the mails and look to Congress for compensation. In pursuance of this arrangement, the petitioners, therefore, on the 20th day of December, 1858, at the instance of the postmasters, took charge of the mails and carried them daily, each way, until the 20th of August, 1859, a period of eight months, for which they have received no compensation. After the petitioners had commenced the carrying of the mails, the postmaster at St. Louis, (who had been the principal postmaster in inducing these parties to carry the mails,) on the 4th of January, A. D. 1859, addressed a letter to Hon. W. H. Dundas, Second Assistant Postmaster General, (attached hereto and made part of this report,) which reads as follows :

POST OFFICE, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI,  
January 4, 1859.

SIR: At the request of the people of Brunswick, Chariton county, I transmit their petition to the Postmaster General for a route which will more certainly and speedily supply their mails, viz: from Allen,

*via* Huntsville, Fort Henry, and Keitsville, to Brunswick and back daily.

I learn the road is a very good one, and that a line of hacks run regularly, connecting with the cars on North Missouri railroad. For some time past I have sent the Brunswick mail this route, assured of its conveyance, the carriers looking to the people there, or to the department, for such remuneration as may be proper. This course was adopted because of its importance to Brunswick, which is a place of considerable trade, and they are thus supplied in about eighteen hours from St. Louis, and, they say, some forty-eight hours earlier than by the old route *via* Jefferson City. The same causes induced the change of the Glasgow mail to North Missouri railroad; and if the Columbia mail was sent the same route then, the route from Jefferson City, *via* Columbia, Glasgow, Brunswick, &c., to Liberty and West, could be reduced between Jefferson City and Brunswick for the supply of some minor offices, and the western line proper start from Brunswick.

To supply Fayette, Howard county, either it should be placed on the line from Sturgeon to Glasgow, or else make a short route, so as to connect these two important places in Howard county, Fayette and Glasgow.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN HOGAN,

*Postmaster.*

Your committee, through one of its members, called at the Post Office Department for information in reference to the matter, but was advised that there was no information in the department other than what the committee had already before them, except as to the value of the services rendered by petitioners, (provided they actually carried the mail daily and for the time stated by petitioners.) Your committee was furnished by the department with the reasonable value of said services aforesaid, under the circumstances, which was placed at the sum of two thousand two hundred and twenty-three (\$2,223) dollars. Your committee, therefore, being fully satisfied, from all the facts and proof, that the petitioners actually performed services for the government which were worth the above sum, report a bill for that amount, and recommend its passage.